

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

3.6.2022

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Divisions in Corinth

## 1 Corinthians 1: 1 – 16

Since the beginning of the church age, believing in the divine truth of salvation has brought about differences among Christian believers, in how each sees the truth of salvation. When these differences arise, it can cause the believer to become very vulnerable to worldly deception, which can lead to division in the body of Christ. The greatest potential for these differences comes when claims of being led by the Holy Spirit concerning the interpretation of scripture are made. This comes about when interpretations are given, concerning doctrines, conditions, and practices of contemporary Christian beliefs, which distort the truth of the understanding of the word of God. These beliefs bring about the discussion, whether it is necessary to confess Christ only, as the one who paid the price for our sin debt, which provides the way of salvation and eternal life. When these divisions occur, then comes the need to take sides, this deception causes the assumption of man's interpretation to form groups of supporters, and as a result, the teaching of the truth of salvation suffers. For this reason, the word teaches us, that Christian unity, for the sake of obedience to Christ's will, and for the truth of that will, to spread the gospel, is a must among believers. The continual challenge, which the body of Christ faces, is to remain committed to the simple truth of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, while responding to the changing circumstances, this is based upon religious experiences instead of a relationship with God, a relationship that is based upon faith believing in Christ and the cross.

**Luke 9: 46 – 48**,....then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest....Jesus perceiving the thought of their heart....said unto them....he that is least among you all, the same shall be great....

There are many that are followers of their own egos and desire the need for proclamation from others. It is power and pride that cause mankind to want to lead others, to become the head of a group, to have influence over others. Those that want to lead, based upon their own set of rules concerning strengths and weaknesses. Having self-centeredness and self-confidence keeps us from becoming true servants of Christ. Christ illustration with the child, shows us that the true meaning of salvation is based upon humility and servitude, self-righteous pride is not honored in the kingdom of God.

**1 Corinthians 1: 1 – 9**,....Paul, called to be an apostle....through the will of God....unto the church....to them that are sanctified....called saints....grace be unto you, and peace....I thank my God always on your behalf.....that in everything you are enriched by him....as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you....so that ye come behind in no gift....that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord....God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ....

Like Paul, all humanity persecuted the church, before they were called to become servants of Christ. Even though we are saved by the grace of God, often time, due to worldly deception, we may still persecute the church, by causing division through differences that we may have with the body of Christ. This is brought about by the lack of faith and spiritual maturity. This lack of faith and spiritual maturity makes us easy prey for false prophets and teachers, to deceive us into believing misinterpretations of the word of God. When we realize that we are selected by Christ, then will we begin to understand that the message to us through his word, comes with the authority from God the Father. Through salvation, we are set apart in Christ, and therefore we are in the process of being sanctified by the Holy Spirit, to the finished work of Christ. For this reason, we are all joined together in the body of Christ, which means that there must be unity among the believers. This is given unto each one who believes upon Christ, through the mercy and grace of God. By Gods grace we can experience peace of mind in all circumstances in our life.

**Philippians 4: 5 – 7**,....let your moderation be known unto all men, the Lord is at hand....be careful for nothing....by prayer and supplication....let your moderation be known unto God....and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

We are to live our Christian life in a manner that is acceptable to the Father, honoring the Son. To do this, we must stand fast in the faith of the gospel of Christ, refraining from foolish arguments which cause worldly attitudes towards others. We must never treat other believers as anything less than our brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter what worldly opinion we may have of them. Let us keep away from false doctrines which will cause us to become anxious in worldly emotions, instead of depending entirely upon the Lord for everything. It is these false doctrines, that will deceive us into making the mistake of trying to produce Godliness on our own. Instead of trying to attain a level of greatness by our own strength, we must rely on God, and trust in him to sustain us. We do this through prayer, and study of Gods word. As we meditate and pray upon the word of God, we will gain confidence in everything that he shows unto us through his word. We must seek to live our Christian life as God intended, so that the peace of God, which gives unto us understanding, shall guard our hearts and our minds in Christ.

**1 Corinthians 1: 10 – 16,....**I beseech you, brethren....that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you....it hath been declared....that there are contentions among you....Is Christ divided....I thank God that I baptized none of you....lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name....

Just as it was at the church at Corinth, there is a lot of conflict in the church today. This is because the church is made up of many personalities. Believers become devoted to their favorite preachers or church leaders and ignore spiritual godly teaching. Preachers and leaders are merely messengers and should not receive praise that belongs to God. There is too much focus on the messenger and not enough focus on the truth of the message. We must remember, that even when there is strong disagreement, that we are all part of the body of Christ, and should address these conflicts as being Christlike, with compassion, mercy, and grace, that can only come from God. As Christians workers, we must realize the value of our fellow workers in the ministry. This can only come through our faith in Christ because there are some within the body of Christ, that are contentious, and divisive, and seek to cause divisions. We must learn through the grace and peace of Christ, to overcome these differences, but it must be done through Christian unity and godly love.

**Romans 1: 24 – 25,....**wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own heart....who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the creator....

Mankind, due to the lust in their own heart, they fall prey to deception, and exchanged the truth of Gods word for worldly lies. Worshipping God is not showing physical emotions but must be done in spirit and in truth.

**John 4: 24,....**God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth....

This means that all that we do must come from the Holy Spirit that is within, it must be sincere, and motivated by our love for God. It must not come from anything or anyone that is created, it can only come from the creator, which is God.

**Matthew 15: 8 – 9,....**this people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me....but in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men....

When man begins teaching his own preferences and traditions, then their worship of God becomes useless, pointless, and ineffective. Professing our own interpretations and doctrines as if they were given unto us by God, will bring divisions in the body of Christ. We must not allow worldly pride to cause us to think that we are following Christ more faithfully than all the rest. As believers, we do not have to agree upon everything, but we must agree upon the one essential thing, and that is Christ and the cross, salvation, and eternal life in God.

Let us pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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